



Daryl K. Roberts
Chief of Police

City of Hartford Police Department
50 Jennings Road
Hartford, Connecticut 06120
(860) 757-4000
www.Hartford.Gov



Pedro E. Segarra
Mayor

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HARTFORD POLICE NEWS

For Immediate Release: August 3, 2010

CITY COP CYCLES CONNECTICUT IN SUPPORT OF FELLOW OFFICER WITH CANCER



Sgt James Elliott

(Hartford) - On Thursday August 5th, Hartford Police Sergeant Jim Elliott will begin a 24-hour bicycle ride around the state of Connecticut to raise money and awareness for a fellow Hartford Police Officer who is suffering from cancer.

Sergeant Elliott's bicycle ride will begin at Hartford Police Headquarters at 8:30 am. The ride will take him around the perimeter of Connecticut, up long hills and against the wind of the southern Connecticut coastline. He will endure the heat from the pavement and from the summer sun. The total distance of the ride is approximately 323 miles; which Sergeant Elliott plans to finish in 24 hours! (See map below)

For Sergeant Elliott however, this grueling ride is nothing compared to what fellow Hartford Police Officer Jason Bates has endured since he was diagnosed with cancer.

Officer Jason Bates, age 31, graduated from the Hartford Police Academy in October 2007. He was strong, fit and excited to serve the Hartford community. Approximately 18 months later, Officer Bates was diagnosed with the debilitating disease. Officer Jason Bates continues to receive treatment in Boston, MA and is unable to return to work. While he is undergoing

treatment he is away from his friends, family and the community he so wanted to serve. Each day he bravely battles the illness that has taken everything from him.

Sergeant Elliott is personally aware of what cancer can do to a person and his family. When Sergeant Elliott was a teenager, both of his parents died from cancer. He saw first-hand how horrific a disease cancer is and how emotionally, physically and financially draining it is on families.

It was for that reason that Sergeant Elliott has dedicated his life to raising awareness about this disease. He is a proud member of LIVESTRONG and has participated in many long rides to help raise awareness and support people he has never meet as they fight the disease.

However, this Thursday's ride is more personal. He is riding not only in memory of his parents but also for a fellow Hartford Police Officer in need. He hopes that by undertaking this difficult ride, he will inspire the community that Officer Jason Bates pledged to serve to come forward and support Officer Bates.

Financial support for Officer Jason Bates can be made by making a donation to an account entitled the "**24 Hour Bates Bicycle Ride**" that has been set up at the Greater Hartford Police Federal Credit Union located at 50 Jennings Road, Hartford. The contact number for the credit union is 860-522-0899. All proceeds will go directly to Officer Bates.

Emotional support can be made by sending get-well cards and words of encouragement to Officer Jason Bates in care of Sergeant Christene Mertes at the Hartford Police Department, 50 Jennings Road, Hartford CT 06120 and by praying for his speedy recovery and return to work.

Please also consider coming to the Hartford Police Station to cheer on Sergeant Elliott. He begins his ride, rain or shine at 8:30 am. All are welcome to attend!

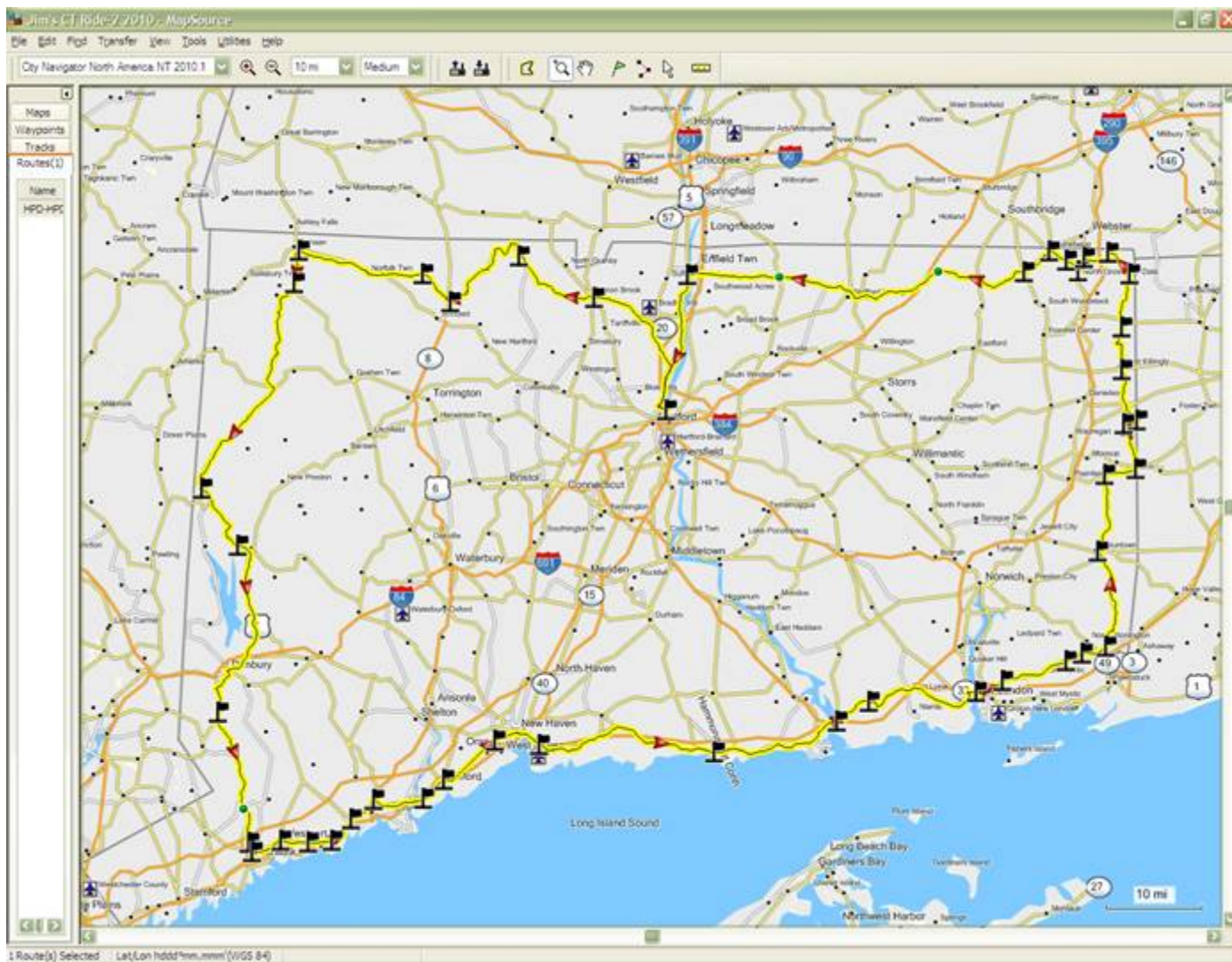
To learn more about cancer and what you can do to help, please visit www.livestrong.org.



Sergeant James Elliott



Officer Jason Bates



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